

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, and 10-15 are pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1, 10-11, and 14-15 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 10, 11, and 14-15 are objected to because of informalities. The claims have been amended to correct the informalities.

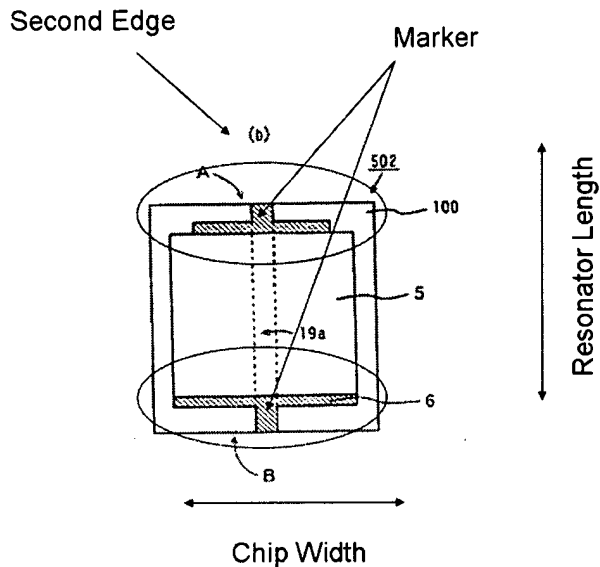
Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,850,547 (the Goto reference).

The Applicants assert that the Goto reference fails to teach all the limitations of the device disclosed in claim 5. The Goto reference fails to teach that “each electrode pattern piece including a **series of markers** having a periodical pattern **formed at one or both of the first edges**, a minimum unit of the periodical pattern having an overall length **in the resonator-length direction** equal to L/n and not greater than a resonator length, wherein L is the resonator length and n is a positive real number not smaller than one, the **first direction being a direction along the resonator length**, wherein the markers can be used to form laser chips of different resonator lengths”, as recited in currently amended claim 1. (Emphasis added).

The Goto reference discloses a semi-conductor laser device in which it is possible to identify the “forward and backward direction along its cavity length” (*see e.g.* Goto, col. 2, lines 19-22), by providing markers formed at the edges of an electrode extending in the **chip width direction** or formed along the second direction (*see e.g.* Goto, Fig. 6b and below). The Goto reference does not disclose markers **formed at one or both of the two first edges of the electrode**

in the **resonator-length direction**. The first edges as disclosed by the current application refer to the edges of the electrode and run along the resonator length direction. As seen in the illustration below, the markers of the Goto reference are formed on both the second edges of the electrode along the chip width direction and not on one or both of the first edges along the resonator length direction.



In other words, the electrode disclosed in the Goto reference has no markers for forming chips having different resonator lengths, which makes it impossible to identify the resonator length and type of semiconductor laser device by the markers.

The device as disclosed in claim 5, on the other hand, has the series of markers formed at one or both of the edges of the electrode extending in the resonator length direction, and the overall length of the series of markers (resonator length) equals to a positive multiple of 1 or more times the

length of one marker. This makes it possible to identify the resonator length and type of semiconductor device at a glance.

In light of the above arguments, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 13

Claims 10, and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goto in view of Ohbuchi (U.S. 6,611,542).

The rejections of claims 10 and 14-15 should be withdrawn for at least the reason that they depend on an allowable base claim.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-13 are allowed.

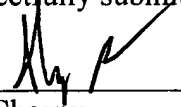
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 259052003300. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: May 1, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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